

TYPHOON MARIE (06W)

Typhoon Marie (06W) was the only of the three May tropical cyclones to develop into a typhoon. The disturbance that eventually became Marie developed much farther east than normal for a May tropical cyclone. An active monsoon trough extended to the Marshall Islands in response to strong low level equatorial westerly winds associated with the developing 1997 El Niño. The disturbance was first mentioned on the 26 May Significant Tropical Weather Advisory (ABPW) and was located about 250 nm (463 km) east of Kwajalien Atoll (WMO 91366). A Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) was issued at 1630Z on 26 May, and the first warning was produced soon thereafter at 1800Z. For the next two days, Tropical Depression 06W intensified

slowly as it moved northward through the subtropical ridge, which had been bisected by the passage of a short wave trough. The system reached tropical storm strength at 1800Z on the 28th and then intensified for the next 24 hours, while moving to the north-northeast at 5-9 kt (9-17 km/hr). At 1200Z on 29 May, Marie achieved typhoon intensity. While moving on a nearly northward track, Typhoon Marie continued to intensify, reaching its maximum intensity of 90 kt (46 m/s) at 0000Z on 31 May. Afterwards, the typhoon moved towards the northeast and began to slowly weaken. By 1800Z on 1 June, Marie's intensity had fallen below typhoon intensity, and the system was undergoing extratropical transition. The final warning was issued at 0600Z on the 2nd as the system accelerated to over 40 kt (74 km/hr), and its transition was nearly complete. Marie spent its entire life over water, and there were no reports of significant impact received by JTWC.

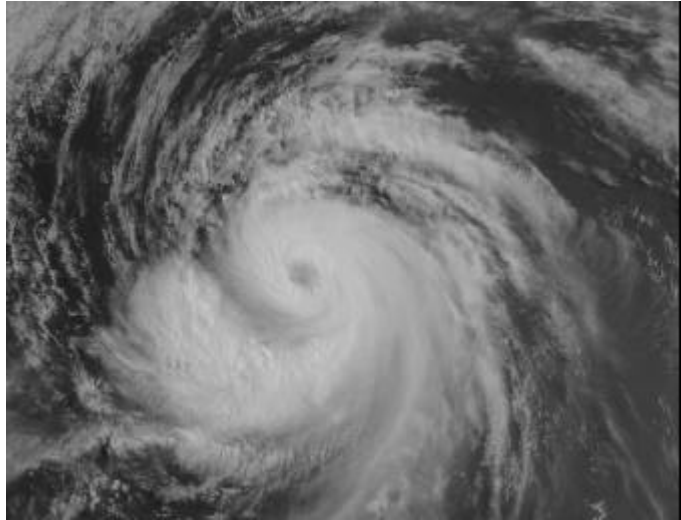


Figure 3-06-1. 302132Z May 97 GMS visible imagery of Typhoon Marie near its 90 kt (47 m/s) peak intensity. At this time, Marie was moving northward at 12 kt (22 km/hr).

